

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5 1. A method of treating skin rash resulting from enzymatic irritation to the skin comprising administering to a mammal a composition containing an effective amount of a plant extract, wherein the plant extract has a trypsin and/or chymotrypsin inhibitory activity of at least about 15%.

10 2. The method according to claim 1 wherein said plant extract is comprised of a procyanidin.

 3. The method according to claim 2 wherein said plant extract is available from at least one of the following natural plant sources: grape seeds, pine barks, pine buds, apples, saxifraga stolonifera, tea, or cocoa.

15 4. The method according to claim 3 wherein said plant extract is obtained from grape seeds.

 5. The method according to claim 2 wherein the plant extract is a "Pycnogenol" pine bark extract.

20 6. The method according to claim 1 wherein the effective amount of the plant extract is, based upon the total weight of the composition, from about 0.01 percent to about 10 percent.

 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the skin rash is perineal dermatitis.

25 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the composition is further comprised of at least one of the following anti- diaper rash agents: zinc oxide, ketoconazole, miconazole, elubiol, allantoin, calamine, dimethicone, kaolin, petrolatum, white petrolatum, cod liver oil, lanolin, mineral oil, talc, or topical starch.

 9. The method of claim 7 wherein the composition is further comprised of a non-denatured soybean extract.

30 10. The method of claim 7, wherein the composition is in an anhydrous form.

 11. The method of claim 7, wherein the composition is in the powder or ointment form.

12. A method of treating perineal dermatitis comprising topically administering to a mammal a composition containing, based upon the total weight of the composition, from about 0.01 % to about 10% of a procyanidin-containing natural plant extract, wherein the plant extract has a trypsin and/or chymotrypsin inhibitory activity of at least about 15%.

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13. The method of claim 12, wherein the plant extract is obtained from at least one of the following plant sources: grape seeds, pine barks, pine buds, apples, saxifraga stolonifera, tea, or cocoa.

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14. A method of preventing diaper rash comprising topically administering to a mammal a composition containing, based upon the total weight of the composition, from about .01 % to about 10% of an effective amount of a procyanidin-containing natural plant extract, wherein the plant extract has a trypsin and/or chymotrypsin inhibitory activity of at least 15%.

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15. The method according to claim 14 wherein said procyanidin-containing natural plant extract is obtained from at least one of the following natural plant sources: grape seeds, pine barks, pine buds, apples, saxifraga stolonifera, tea, or cocoa.

16. The method according to claim 15 wherein said natural plant source is grape seeds.

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17. The method according to claim 14 wherein the procyanidin-containing plant extract is "Pycnogenol" pine bark extract.

18. The method according to claim 14 wherein the effective amount of the procyanidin-containing plant extract is, based upon the total weight of the composition, from about 0.1 percent to about 1 percent.

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19. The method according to claim 14 wherein the composition is further comprised of at least one of the following anti-diaper rash agents: zinc oxide, ketoconazole, miconazole, elubiol, allantoin, calamine, dimethicone, kaolin, petrolatum, white petrolatum, cod liver oil, lanolin, mineral oil, talc, or topical starch.

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20. The method of claim 14 wherein the composition is further comprised of a non-denatured soybean extract.

21. The method of claim 14, wherein the composition is in an anhydrous form.

22. The method of claim 14, wherein the composition is in the powder or ointment form.

23. A method of preventing perineal dermatitis comprising topically administering to a mammal an anhydrous composition containing, based upon the total weight of the composition, from about .01 % to about 10% of a procyanidin-containing natural plant extract, wherein the plant extract has a trypsin and/or chymotrypsin inhibitory activity of at least about 15%.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the procyanidin-containing plant extract is obtained from at least one of the following plant sources: grape seeds, pine barks, pine buds, apples, saxifraga stolonifera, tea, or cocoa.

25. A method of reducing the redness of skin caused by perineal dermatitis comprising topically administering to a mammal an anhydrous composition containing, based upon the total weight of the composition, from about 0.01% to about 10% of a procyanidin-containing natural plant extract, wherein the natural plant extract has a trypsin and/or chymotrypsin inhibitory activity of at least about 15%.

26. A method of treating skin rash resulting from enzymatic irritation to the skin comprising administering to a mammal a composition containing an effective amount of a natural plant extract having a trypsin and/or chymotrypsin inhibitory activity of at least 15%, wherein the natural plant extract is comprised of at least one of the following: procyanidin, catechin, or epicatechin.

27. A composition comprising, based upon the total weight of the composition,

- a) from about 0.01% to about 10% of a procyanidin-containing natural plant extract, wherein the plant extract has a trypsin and/or chymotrypsin inhibitory activity of at least about 15%; and
- b) at least one of the following cosmetically active agents: zinc oxide and/or non-denatured soy extract.